

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2003, in the above-captioned application. Entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims, entry of new claims 22-25, and reconsideration and allowance of the application, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner considered claims 3, 5-7, 11 and 13-17 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicant has rewritten claims 3, 5-7, 11 and 13-16 in independent form, including all the limitations of the claims from which they had previously depended. It is submitted that claim 17, which depended from claim 16, can continue to depend from claim 16 as claim 16 has been rewritten to become an allowable independent claim.

New claims 22-25 are presented. They depend from claim 16, which has been rewritten herein to become an allowable independent claim. They add the identical limitations that were recited in claims 11 and 13-15 when those claims were held to be allowable but dependent. Entry and allowance of claims 22-25 are respectfully solicited because they do not add new matter and they do not raise any new issues nor require any new search.

For all the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald T. Black". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Donald T. Black
Attorney for Applicants
PTO Reg. No. 27,999

Praxair, Inc.
39 Old Ridgebury Road
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 837-2669
November 25, 2003